

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 CU-02 /032 W
-----021223Z 033041 /22

R 021043Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0822
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 2670

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT SEDU PO
SUBJECT: STUDENT ELECTIONS: SHIFT TO THE RIGHT

SUMMARY: THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSD), HAS WON
VICTORIES IN FEB AND MAR UNIVERSITY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL
ELECTIONS. THE VICTORIES SHOW A PRONOUNCED SHIFT TO THE RIGHT.
THEY MARK A STRIKING CHANGE FROM THE POST-1974 COUP DAYS WHEN THE
COMMUNISTS DOMINATED FACULTIES AND SCHOOLS. END SUMMARY.

1. STUDENT ELECTIONS: FEB AND MAR STUDENT ELECTIONS IN SECONDARY
SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES, DISPUTED ALMOST ENTIRELY ON A PARTY BASIS,
HAVE SHOWN A PRONOUNCED SHIFT TO THE RIGHT.

-- THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PSD) HAS
BEEN THE STRONGEST;
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--THE CONSERVATIVE CENTER DEMOCRATS (CDS) ARE IN SECOND PLACE
IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS;
--THE SOCIALIST PARTY (PS), WHICH ENJOYED THE BROADEST SUPPORT
IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS, HAS NOT OBTAINED A VICTORY IN A REPORTED
ELECTION IN 1977.

2. STUDENT OFFICES: STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY AND SECONDARY

SCHOOL LEVEL HELD TWO SEPARATE ELECTIONS. THE FIRST IS FOR STUDENT SEATS ON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BODIES. STUDENTS HOLD VOTING RIGHTS AT ALL, EVEN THE HIGHEST, LEVELS OF SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION. THE SECOND IS FOR CONTROL OF STUDENT OR ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS. THESE ARE ANALOGOUS TO OUR OWN STUDENT COUNCILS BUT HAVE BROADER FUNCTIONS.

A. UNIVERSITIES:

(1) ADMINISTRATION: THE BASE UNIT IN THE HIERARCHY OF UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION IS THE ASSEMBLY OF REPRESENTATIVES, NORMALLY COMPOSED OF 20 PROFESSORS, 20 STUDENTS, AND 10 UNIVERSITY WORKERS. CONTENDING GROUPS FILE LISTS OF CANDIDATES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CATEGORY USING THE HONDT SYSTEM OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION. THE ASSEMBLY THEN SELECTS FROM ITS MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES TO THE HIGHER BODIES.

(2) STUDENT ASSOCIATION: ELECTION TO THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION IS ON A WINNER-TAKE-ALL BASIS. 51 PERCENT OF THE VOTE IS NEEDED TO WIN. RUNOFFS ARE HELD IF REQUIRED.

B. SECONDARY SCHOOLS:

(1) ADMINISTRATION: THE KEY BODY IN HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION IS THE DIRECTIVE COUNCIL, COMPOSED OF 3 OR 5 TEACHERS, 2 STUDENTS, AND 1 WORKER. THE STUDENT DELEGATES ARE SELECTED BY AN ASSEMBLY OF HOME ROOM REPRESENTATIVES.

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(2) STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS: SAME AS UNIVERSITIES.

3. THE CONTENDERS: STUDENT ELECTIONS ARE HIGH POLITICIZED AFFAIRS. THEY ARE GENERALLY CONTESTED BY THE YOUTH WINGS OF THE FOUR MAIN NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES: SOCIALISTS (SOCIALIST YOUTH -- JS); COMMUNISTS (UNION OF COMMUNIST YOUTH -- UEC); SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH -- JSD); AND THE CENTER DEMOCRATS (CENTRIST YOUTH -- JC).

4. THE CONTESTS: CAMPAIGNING IS USUALLY LIMITED TO EIGHT DAYS. ISSUES INCLUDE EDUCATIONAL MATTERS, STUDENT AFFAIRS, AND PARTY PROGRAMS.

5. THE RESULTS: 1977 ELECTION RESULTS TO DATE FOLLOW:

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-----021223Z 033130 /11

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
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A. UNIVERSITIES: PORTUGAL HAS FOUR UNIVERSITIES. EACH
UNIVERSITY IS COMPOSED OF AUTONOMOUS FACULTIES, E.G. MEDICINE,
ENGINEERING, ETC. EACH FACULTY -- 24 IN ALL -- HOLDS SEPARATE
ELECTIONS.

(1) ASSEMBLY OF REPRESENTATIVES: WINNERS IN THE 17 ELECTIONS
HELD SO FAR ARE:
-- JSD: 7 OUTRIGHT; 5 IN COALITION WITH JC, JS, OR INDEPENDENTS;
AND SECOND IN THE REST.
-- UEC: 1
-- ASSORTED FAR LEFT COALITIONS:

(2) STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS: WINNERS IN THREE ELECTIONS:
-- JSD: 2
-- LEFTIST INDEPENDENTS: 1
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B. SECONDARY SCHOOLS: THERE ARE 279 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN PORTUGAL.
1977 ELECTION RESULTS TO DATE:
(1) DIRECTIVE COUNCIL: WINNERS IN 57 ELECTIONS:

-- JSD: 27 OUTRIGHT; 5 IN VARIOUS COALITIONS INCLUDING
JC, JS, AND INDEPENDENTS.
-- JC: 10 OUTRIGHT; 1 OTHER IN COALITION
-- JS/UEC: ONE
-- ASSORTED FAR LEFT COALITIONS: 13

(2) STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS: WINNERS IN 33 ELECTIONS:

-- JSD: 11
-- JSD/JC: 10
-- JC: 12

6. COMMENT: THE ELECTION RETURNS ARE A SIZEABLE VICTORY FOR
THE JSD AND SHOW A PRONOUNCED SHIFT TO THE RIGHT. THEY MARK
A STRIKING CHANGE FROM THE DAYS AFTER THE 1974 COUP WHEN THE PCP
SEIZED CONTROL OF MANY SCHOOLS AND FACULTIES. REASONS FOR
THIS SHIFT INCLUDE:

-- THE HIGHER-CLASS ORIGINS OF UNIVERSITY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS. PORTUGAL'S ANACHRONISTIC
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND SOCIETY, STILL GIVE MUCH
GREATER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO THE MORE AFFLUENT;
-- STUDENT DISCONTENT WITH LEFTIST TURMOIL; MANY
STUDENTS RECOGNIZE THEY HAVE BEEN BADLY SERVED BY
LEFTISTS, FALLING STANDARDS, AND CLASSROOM TURMOIL.
THEIR SHIFT TO THE RIGHT IS A VOTE FOR EDUCATIONAL
STABILITY AND COMPETENCE.
-- JS ADHERENCE TO LEFTISM: THE JS IS FARTHER
TO THE LEFT THAN ITS PARENT PARTY, IS BADLY
DIVIDED, AND LACKS CENTRAL GUIDANCE. ITS OCCASIONAL
ELECTION ALLIANCES WITH UEC, GDUP, AND OTHER FAR
LEFT PARTIES ARE TESTIMONY TO THIS. IT IS SUFFERING
THE BURDEN OF A PARTY IN POWER, TAKING THE BLAME FOR EVERYTHING
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WRONG WITH EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

-- JSD COHERENCE, ORGANIZATION, AND LEADERSHIP:
NOT ROUBLED WITH THE INTERNAL SPLITS OF THE JS, THE JSD IS BETTER
ABLE TO MOUNT EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGNS.

7. THE TREND FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IS MORE OF THE SAME.
NATURAL ALIGNMENTS ARE MAKING THEMSELVES FELT IN A SCHOOL
ENVIRONMENT WHERE THE COERCEIVE FORCE OF THE COMMUNISTS AND THE
FAR LEFT IS DECLINING.
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Message Attributes

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